

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 147327
ORIGIN NEA-11

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
PA/PRS - MR. CARTER
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NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM
-----011216 092148Z /61

O 092116Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USCINCEUR
SECDEF WASHDC 0484
JCS WASHDC 0398
CIA WASHDC 0443
NSC WASHDC 0374
USICA WASHDC

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, DELIVER BY 9 A.M., TEL AVIV FOR PAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JUNE 9

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JUNE 9, 1978. FYI ONLY,
SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS JOHN TRATTNER.

Q. DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY REACTION ON THE ISRAELI
RAID INTO LEBANON?

A. WE FEEL THAT THE ACTION TODAY UNDERLINES AGAIN THE
NEED TO RESTORE PEACE AND STABILITY TO LEBANON AND TO
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REACH A SETTLEMENT OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. I DONT
HAVE ANYTHING ON IT BEYOND THAT.

Q. IS IT STILL THE AMERICAN EXPECTATION THAT THE ISRAELIS
PLAN TO LEAVE LEBANON WHEN THEY SAID THEY WOULD, OR DOES
THIS INDICATE THAT THEY MAY BE PLANNING TO STAY LONGER?

A. I DONT HAVE ANY FEELING THAT THERE IS ANY LINKAGE
BETWEEN THE ACTION TODAY AND THE ISRAELI ANNOUNCED INTEN-
TION TO WITHDRAW. EVERY INDICATION WE HAVE IS THAT THEY
DO INTEND TO WITHDRAW JUNE 13TH, AS THEY HAVE SAID THEY
WOULD IN FULFILLMENT OF RESOLUTION 425.

Q. ON BACKGROUND, IF YOU CANT DO IT OPENLY, DO YOU SEE
IT AS THE ISRAELIS TRYING TO TELL YOU AND THE REST OF
THE WORLD THAT EVEN IF WE PULL BACK FROM THE SOUTH OF
LEBANON, THE COMPLIANCE WITH 425 IS JUST NOT SUBSTANTIAL
COMPLIANCE. IT'S QUITE BEYOND THE RED LINE -- DEEP.
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

A. I'M NOT GOING TO TRY TO INTERPRET IT FOR YOU. I'M
JUST NOT GOING TO TRY TO GET INTO THAT SORT OF THING

WITH YOU.

Q. WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE DISCUSSIONS TODAY BETWEEN SECRETARY VANCE AND THE EGYPTIAN WAR MINISTER?

A. MR. GAMASY AND THE SECRETARY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING THE CURRENT STATE OF THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND OTHER SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO BOTH SIDES. HE IS HAVING SEVERAL MEETINGS IN THE BUILDING TODAY. I THINK HE IS LUNCHING WITH MRS. BENSON AND HE AND MRS. BENSON ARE GOING TO DISCUSS SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS.

Q. IS HE BRINGING ANY SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE?
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A. I DONT KNOW. THAT IS SOMETHING YOU WOULD HAVE TO ASK HIM.

Q. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT MR. WEITZMAN HAS MET WITH A TOP ARAB LEADER IN LONDON, AND I WAS WONDERING IF THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL HAS COMMUNICATED ANY INFORMATION ON THAT TO THE UNITED STATES?

A. I'M NOT AWARE IF THEY HAVE, NO. VANCE

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